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Its southern prairie portion is divided into three levels by two lines of escarpment trending N.W.-S.E., the Manitoba Escarpment and the Missouri Coteau.

Canada's portion of the bi-continental highland, the Cordilleran Region, is subdivided into three longitudinal divisions, two mountain systems on its borders enclosing an irregular plateau region. The eastern mountain system includes the Rocky Mountains and, N. of the Liard River, the Mackenzie Mountains; the western system, the Coast Range. The central plateau region is separated transversely by a broken, elevated belt of land dividing the Yukon and Liard River systems. The two portions of the plateau thus isolated are known as the Interior Plateau of British Columbia, in the south, and the Yukon Plateau, in the north.

For further details the reader must be referred to the work itself. The numerous illustrations are well chosen, being typical of the regions they represent. The two valuable maps, one of the geology and one of the distribution of the mineral deposits, were listed in the May *Bulletin* (p. 390). W. L. G. J.

### **The Buccaneers in the West Indies in the XVIIth Century.**

By C. H. Haring. viii and 298 pp., bibliography, index, 10 maps and illustrations. E. P. Dutton & Company, New York, 1910. \$3.50.

Although the annual fair formerly held at Porto Bello on the Isthmus of Panama was open at most for forty days and sometimes for only ten or twelve, the volume of business transacted was estimated at the beginning of the eighteenth century to amount to \$200,000,000. Let us consider this fact in connection with the circumstance that Morgan had proved that neither Porto Bello nor Panama could withstand the buccaneers. Between 1655 and 1671 alone the corsairs sacked eighteen cities (Porto Bello once, Panama once, other cities repeatedly) and plundered and destroyed about forty Spanish-American villages and towns. Mr. Haring quotes an estimate made in 1685 to the effect that the losses of the Spaniards at the hands of the buccaneers "since the accession of Charles II" amounted to 60,000,000 crowns, and those figures did not include the loss of more than 250 merchant ships and frigates. Again, in 1697 Cartagena was captured by a force which was partly composed of buccaneers, the plunder in this case being valued at \$100,000,000. Evidently the field for the exercise of the talents of those freebooters who chose the Spanish Main as the scene of their exploits was richer and wider than ever at the close of the seventeenth century. Why, then, does their history end with the raid on Cartagena?

Mr. Haring answers that Spain's American possessions were at that time actually much more profitable to the other European nations than to the Spaniards themselves; that it was the English, the French, and the Dutch traders who carried their merchandise to Spanish ports and freighted the Spanish-American fleets, and who appropriated the greater part of the gold, silver, and precious stuffs which the Spanish fleets brought back from Porto Bello and Vera Cruz. Therefore the capture of a Spanish galleon or the destruction of a Spanish-American town came to be regarded as a blow directed less at the Spaniards than at the foreign merchants who were interested in the trade between Spain and her colonies. Naturally the English and French governments abandoned the old policy of connivance and encouragement, adopting instead severe measures for the suppression of buccaneering, "because they came to

realize that it was easier and more profitable to absorb the trade and riches of Spanish-America through the peaceful agencies of treaty and concession than by endeavoring to enforce a trade in the old-fashioned way inaugurated by Drake and his Elizabethan contemporaries." The author's very sensible view of this matter fairly indicates the character of his book, every chapter of which may be read with pleasure and profit. There are chapters on the Spanish colonial system, the freebooters of the sixteenth century, the beginnings of the buccaneers, the conquest of Jamaica, Tortuga, Porto Bello and Panama, the suppression of the buccaneers by the government, and the lapse of buccaneering into mere piracy.

M. W.

**An Unknown People in an Unknown Land.** An Account of the Life and Customs of the Lengua Indians of the Paraguayan Chaco, with Adventures and Experiences met with during twenty years' pioneering and exploration amongst them. By W. Barbrooke Grubb. 330 pp., illustrations and map, appendices and index. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1911. \$3.50.

Vast levels of treeless grass-land interspersed with open palm groves or scrubby thickets, in rainy seasons a vast swamp with water everywhere though rarely open, in dry time a withered prairie, desolate and inhospitable, foodless but for the abundant lung-fish (*Lepidosiren*) buried in the mud beneath the baked surface, whence they are dug out by squalid Lengua Indians, clothed to the waist with a single garment, the women of skins, the men of a blanket—such is the Chaco in Paraguay. The Lengua is low in the arts, possesses almost nothing, has no permanent home, gorges himself when he happens on food, but is lazy and improvident lest his fellow profit by his labors. The law of his tribe would compel him to admit less energetic members to his house if he made it larger or drier, so he makes but a wind-break of branches. As surplus of corn or other food would be at once property of his companions he produces only for merest necessity.

Among these men, hostile and suspicious of foreigners, W. Barbrooke Grubb thrust himself some twenty years back, unwelcome, but resolute to win their confidence. Early chapters seem to make capital of the hardship and danger of the attempt. There is no need. It was a man's task well done. For years alone, he mastered their language and their habits, won their confidence and their liking, and the picture he paints of their ways and thoughts impress us with the nearness of his approach to that strange, shy creature, primitive man. He believes they have degenerated from a previous, higher state, coming perhaps from the Andes. The socialistic law that forbids individual ownership has been imposed on them, like their habit of infanticide, by the harsh conditions of their wanderings through the forest. Progress was begun by the Mission in improving their condition when this socialism was destroyed (all unconscious Mr. Grubb, the while, that the irony of circumstances is bringing another band of white socialists a quarter way round the world from Australia to try out the community-of-goods idea only 500 miles away—and fail,—in the colonies Nueva Australia and Cosme).

The Mission has fixed the Indians in permanent homes, has checked infanticide, is teaching industry and thrift. It is an accomplishment and Grubb's part an amazing contribution to human endurance and steadfastness and to knowledge. The book is good reading, but the reader will not wish to emigrate to the Paraguayan Chaco.

MARK JEFFERSON.